

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (U.S. Pub. 2001/0011373) in view of Kondo et al. (U.S. Patent 6,763,522). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1, 3, 6, and 11

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia* (emphasis added):

(b) whenever a selected channel number is selected from among the N channel numbers for which the EPG information is displayed, tuning the selected channel number and updating only EPG information corresponding to the selected channel number.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Inoue and Kondo neither teaches nor suggests this claimed feature. This is because neither Inoue nor Kondo, taken alone or in combination, discloses “whenever a selected channel number is selected...updating only EPG information corresponding to the selected channel number.”

Column 12, lines 5 to 9 of Kondo discloses:

If at step 128 the system detects a new major channel select request, the processor retrieves the newly selected major channel's broadcast frequency from memory, and instructs the tuner to tune to that frequency. The system then repeats the process of FIG. 4 beginning with step 109.

Accordingly, when a channel is changed, Kondo tunes to the frequency of the channel stored in memory. Column 5, lines 19 to 23, of Kondo discloses how the tuner tunes to the frequency of the selected channel:

The selected broadcast source is provided as input to digital tuner 10 wherein a digital signal is demodulated from the carrier to provide at least one digital signal transport stream. The digital signal transport stream is asserted on bus 11 to transport stream de-multiplexor 12.

Accordingly, the tuner tunes to the channel frequency, demodulates the modulated broadcast carrier signal, and “a digital signal is demodulated from the carrier to provide at least one digital signal transport stream.” The “digital signal transport stream” contains plural digital television (DTV) channels (*see* Kondo, col. 1, ll. 46-48, “3 to 4 DTV channels can be safely supported in a single, digital-signal transport stream without congestion of the physical channel”).

Column 5, lines 23 to 28 discloses:

The transport stream de-multiplexor 12 separates the elementary digital data stream packets from the transport stream packet to provide elementary digital data signals including at least one audio 13, one video 14, and program and system information streams 15.

Accordingly, program and system information (PSI) streams, which “comprise a hierarchy of associated tables that provide electronic program guide data at the event level for minor channels carried in the transport stream (*see* Kondo, col. 2, ll. 33-36), are demodulated from the digital signal transport stream.

The PSI tables include a System Time Table (STT) 71, an optional Rating Region Table (RRT) 72, a Master Guide Table (MGT) 73, and a Virtual Channel Table (VCT) 74 (*see* Kondo, col. 8, ll. 45-52). Specifically, column 9, lines 1 to 6, of Kondo describes the VCT:

The Virtual Channel Table (VCT) 74 contains a list of all of the channels that are, or will be, on-line plus their attributes; i.e., channel name, navigation identifiers, stream components, and the like. Conveniently, the VCT channel lists may also include analog channels and other digital channels found in different transport streams.

The above describes how Kondo tunes a channel to obtain a transport stream, which includes plural DTV channels, and information about each channel in the transport stream.

In Kondo, when a user selects a new major channel, the system “reads the current version of the VCT [] from the currently broadcasting MGT as provided by the transport stream demultiplexer at step 109” (see Kondo, col. 10, l. 63 - col. 11, l. 1). Specifically, the system analyzes version numbers in a Master Guide Table (MGT) (see Kondo, col. 10, ll. 1-12) to determine whether minor channels in a Virtual Channel Table (VCT) (see Kondo, col. 9, ll. 1-12) associated with a major channel (see Kondo, col. 10, ll. 43-48) change, determine whether events or messages for minor channels of the VCT in an Event Information Table (EIT) (see Kondo, col. 9, ll. 16-18) change, and determine whether information on television programs associated with each of the minor channels of the VCT in an Extended Text Table (ETT) (see Kondo, col. 9, ll. 18-20) change.

Therefore, Kondo makes clear that EPG information in every VCT, EIT, and ETT for every channel in the transport stream is updated. As discussed above, Kondo discloses that 3 to 4 DTV channels, as well as PSI information for each DTV channel, are included in the transport stream, and the PSI information is defined by the VCTs, EITs, and ETTs. Accordingly, whenever a new major channel is selected in Kondo, the system updates EPG information for each DTV channel using the VCTs, EITs, and ETTs in the transport stream.

Accordingly, at best, Kondo discloses two options for updating the EPG information when a channel is changed: 1) if the selected channel number is a minor channel, the system simply displays the audio and video of the newly selected minor channel; and 2) if the channel number is a major channel, the system updates EPG information for all the major channels and

all their associated minor channels in the transport stream. There is no teaching or suggestion of “updating only EPG information corresponding to the selected channel number.” Rather, in Kondo, if the selected channel number is a minor channel, no updating is performed, and if the selected channel number is a major channel, updating of all the major channels and all the minor channels in the transport stream is performed.

As a result, Applicant respectfully submits that Kondo fails to teach or suggest “whenever a selected channel number is selected...updating only EPG information corresponding to the selected channel number,” as recited in claim 1. At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Inoue fails to teach or suggest this claimed feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that, even if Inoue and Kondo could have somehow been combined, claim 1 and its dependent claims would not have been rendered unpatentable by the combination of Inoue and Kondo for at least these reasons.

To the extent independent claims 3, 6, and 11 recite features similar to those discussed above recited in claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3, 6, 11, and their dependent claims also would not have been rendered unpatentable by the combination of Inoue and Kondo for reasons analogous to those discussed above regarding claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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